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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
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INFO AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENNA 04723

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: COE, PORG, AU

SUBJECT: KARASEK ON HIS CANDIDACY FOR COUNCIL OF EUROPE
POSITION OF SECRETARY-GENERAL

REFS: A) PARIS 15362; B) VIENNA 4682

SUMMARY. AUSTRIAN PEOPLE'S PARTY NATIONAL ASSEMBLY DEPUTY KARASEK SAID HE PLANS TO MOUNT SERIOUS EFFORT TOR ELECTION TO POST OF SECRETARY-GENERAL OF COUNCIL OF EUROPE (COE) IN 1979. HIS ANALYSIS OF FIELD OF POSSIBLE CONTENDERS AT THIS JUNCTURE SUGGESTS TO HIM HE HAS BEST PROSPECT FOR GETTING POST AND, BARRING THE UNEXPECTED, HE FEELS HE CAN PUT TOGETHER REQUIRED NUMBER OF VOTES FOR ELECTION.

1. IN COURSE OF DISCUSSION OF COUNCIL OF EUROPE'S (COE) RECENT HANDLING OF CYPRUS ISSUE (REFTEL B), EMBOFF RAISED WITH AUSTRIAN PEOPLE'S PARTY NATIONAL ASSEMBLY DEPUTY FRANZ KARASEK DEGREE OF LATTER'S INTEREST IN POSSIBLY BECOMING NEXT COE SECRETARY-GENERAL. KARASEK (PLEASE RPOTECT AS SOURCE) SAID HE WAS A SERIOUS CANDIDATE FOR POST AND THAT HE NOW HAD ASSURANCES FROM CHANCELLOR KREISKY THAT GOA WILL PUT FORWARD AND SUPPORT HIS CANDIDACY AT APPROPRIATE TIME.
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2. ACCORDING TO HIS ANALYSIS OF FIELD OF POSSIBLE CANDIDATES, KARASEK CONCLUDES HE HAS AT THIS JUNCTURE BEST PROSPECTS FOR EVENTUAL ELECTION TO POSITION. FACTORS FAVORING HIS CANDIDACY ARE: HE IS WELL KNOWN TO MOST COE MEMBERS WHO HAVE FIRSTHAND KNOWLEDGE OF HIS PROFESSIONAL ABILITY; HE THOROUGHLY KNOWS AND UNDERSTANDS HOW COE

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OPERATES; AND HE HAS BEEN CHAIRMAN OF SEVERAL IMPORTANT
COE COMMITTEES AND IS RAPPORTEUR ON CYPRUS PROBLEM, A MAJOR
ISSUE BEFORE COE.

3. THREE OTHER POSSIBLE CANDIDATES MUST OVERCOME CERTAIN
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SHORTCOMINGS OR WEAKNESSES BEFORE THEY CAN BE CONSIDERED
SERIOUS CONTENDERS FOR POST, ACCORDING TO KARASEK. INCUM-
BENT KAHN-ACKERMANN MIGHT BECOME CANDIDATE FOR REELECTION,
BUT HE WOULD FACE USUAL RELUCTANCE IN COE TO HAVE POSITION
REMAIN WITH SAME COUNTRY. IN ADDITION, INDICATIONS ARE
UNCLEAR WHETHER FRG GOVERNMENT WOULD RENOMINATE ACKERMANN.
SCANDINAVIAN COUNTRIES HAVE REGISTERED INTEREST IN HAVING
ONE OF THEIR COUNTRYMEN ELECTED TO POST, BUT LOGICAL
CANDIDATES (ONE OF FOREIGN MINISTERS OF NORDIC COUNTRIES)
SEEM RELUCTANT TO GIVE UP PORTFOLIO FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS TO
ENTER CONTEST, OUTCOME OF WHICH WOULD BE UNCERTAIN UNTIL
VOTING CONCLUDED. POSSIBILITY OF FRENCH CANDIDACY HAS
ALSO BEEN BRUTED ABOUT, BUT REPORTEDLY KNOWN ANTIPATHY
IN SOME COE CIRCLES TO FRENCH PRACTICES IN COE DOES NOT
ENCOURAGE PROSPECT FOR SUCCESSFUL CANDIDACY.

4. KARASEK HIMSELF IS WELL AWARE THAT HE, TOO, HAS
IMPORTANT NEGATIVE FACTOR TO OVERCOME, NAMELY, FEELING IN
SOME QUARTERS THAT POSITION SHOULD NOT GO SO SOON TO
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ANOTHER AUSTRIAN AFTER HAVING BEEN HELD BY FORMER AUSTRIAN
FOREIGN MINISTER LUJO TONCIC-SORINJ, 1969-74. EXCLUDING
FOREGOING CONSIDERATION, KARASEK FEELS HE IS MORE SERIOUS
CONTENDER FOR POST AND, BARRING THE UNFORESEEABLE, HE IS
CONFIDENT HE WILL BE ABLE TO PUT VOTE TOGETHER FOR HIS
ELECTION. WOLF

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